

Eugen Schmid

(30 July 1927 - 12 August 2012)



Eugen Ulrich Schmid was born on 30 July 1927, the youngest of 5 children of a devoted Lutheran family. After a happy childhood in South-West Africa (now Namibia), he left for Pretoria where he qualified as a medical doctor in 1952. After an extended period in private practice in his home country, he returned to Pretoria where he obtained his master's degree in surgery before he entered the missionary field.

He spent 7 years as a surgeon at Ramoutsa in Botswana, where he was a co-founder of the Bamelete Lutheran Mission Hospital near Gaborone. He was honoured by President Sir Seretse Khama with special appreciation for his outstanding services to the people of Botswana. In 1971 he was appointed as Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Pretoria and chief surgeon at Kalafong Hospital, where he served with distinction until his retirement. It is a singular honour to be called upon to pay homage to a loyal friend, highly respected colleague, renowned teacher and caring surgeon who left an indelible impression on his patients, nursing staff, medical students as well as his peers. It is an opportune moment to call to mind the day when he bade us farewell on his retirement from Kalafong Hospital. We bore witness to the great grief and sense of loss shown by the Kalafong

nursing staff who came to pay their last respects to a caring and sympathetic father and leader of the team.

Uli Schmid was a seasoned clinician and an outstanding technical surgeon. He was a founder member of the multidisciplinary Head and Neck Oncology Clinic in Pretoria as well as the Head and Neck Oncology Society of South Africa.

His love of nature was as intense as his love for his work. This particular interest dated back to a blissful childhood in the land of his birth where he spent many hours in the veld. After his retirement, he attended a course in sculpture at UNISA. His experience in the visual arts reached its culmination when he carved a crucifix from a log of Boekenhout wood (*Faurea saligna*) which he found in the bushveld near Zeerust in North-West Province. This sculptural masterpiece, which took him 2 years to complete, was admired by everyone who gathered in the Evangelic Lutheran Church in Pretoria to pay their respects when Uli was laid to rest at the foot of his creation. It will serve as an eternal memorial to the profound religious convictions which guided his life.

In 1953, Uli married Marianne Straueli. They had 5 children: Rudolph, Klaus, Bärbel, Jörg and Annelore. The caring way in which Uli nursed Marianne during the final years of her incapacitating and incurable illness was a deeply touching lesson to us all.

We shall remember him.

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